

A Recipe for Change

Engagement for Policy Influence



FSC
RAD

Food
Secure
Canada

Réseau
pour une alimentation
durable

Canada, like most countries Has No Food Policy

Currently food is governed by

- 5 federal departments,
- 2 federal agencies and
- many others at provincial and municipal levels

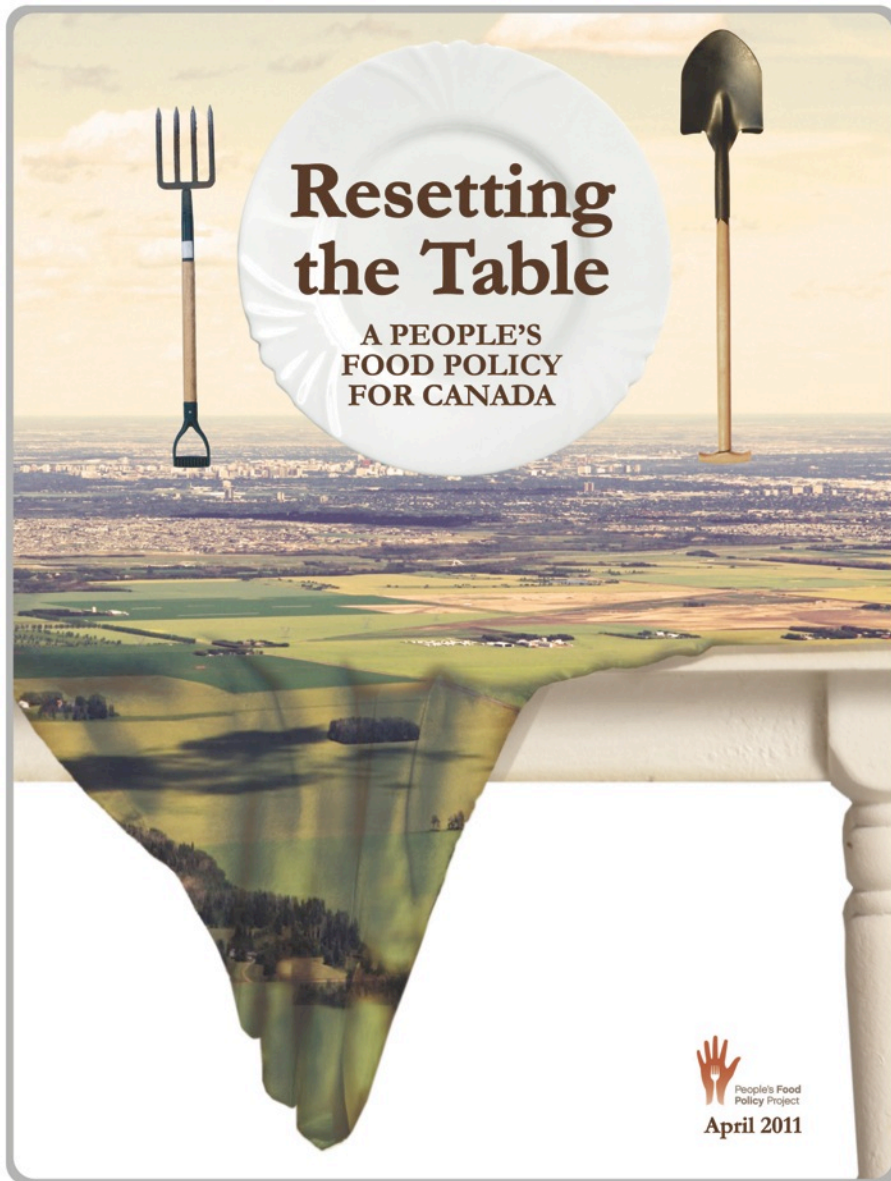


3500 citizens contributed to the People's Food Policy



10 policy discussion papers

- Indigenous Food Sovereignty
- Food Sovereignty in Rural and Remote Communities
- Access to Food in Urban Communities
- Agriculture, Infrastructure and Livelihoods
- A Sustainable Fishery and Reasonable Livelihood for Fishers
- Environment and Agriculture
- Science and Technology for Food and Agriculture
- Food Trade and International Aid
- Healthy and Safe Food for All
- Food Democracy and Governance



- Launched April 17, 2011 during the federal election
- over 60 media hits
- Supported by NDP and Greens
- First time that Food Policy was part of a Federal Election

Top 5 priorities

- Creating a nationally-funded Children and Food strategy
- Ensuring that food is eaten as close as possible to where it is produced
- Supporting a widespread shift to ecological production
- Enacting a strong federal poverty elimination and prevention program
- Ensuring that the public, especially the most marginalized, are actively involved in decisions

People and Skills

25 Animators

- Organizers, networkers, facilitators
- Organized first round of kitchen table talks
- Developed tools, guides and resources
- Spokespeople for project in regions

10 Policy Writing Teams (~40 people)

- Academics, researchers, writers and policy minded people
- Took submissions and shaped them into 10 discussion papers
- Revised papers based on feedback – 4 drafts
- Adopted a common structure for the discussion papers

Indigenous Circle

- Developed protocol for working across cultures to guide work
- Oversight of Discussion paper 1: Indigenous Food sovereignty

Steering committee and management team

- Representatives from diverse sectors, regions of country
- Decision makers, messaging, oversight

Timeline

Phase 1 (2009)

- Development of popular education tools, teams, website
- Animators hosted 3 KTT each in their region

Phase 2 (2010)

- Writing, rewriting, face-to-face meeting to shape discussion papers
- Participation guide developed for popular engagement
- Draft 3 of discussion papers published

Phase 3 (Fall 2010)

- Second round of KTT – open to all who wanted to host
- Revising of papers
- Choosing top priorities during FSC's assembly in Montreal

Phase 4 (2011)

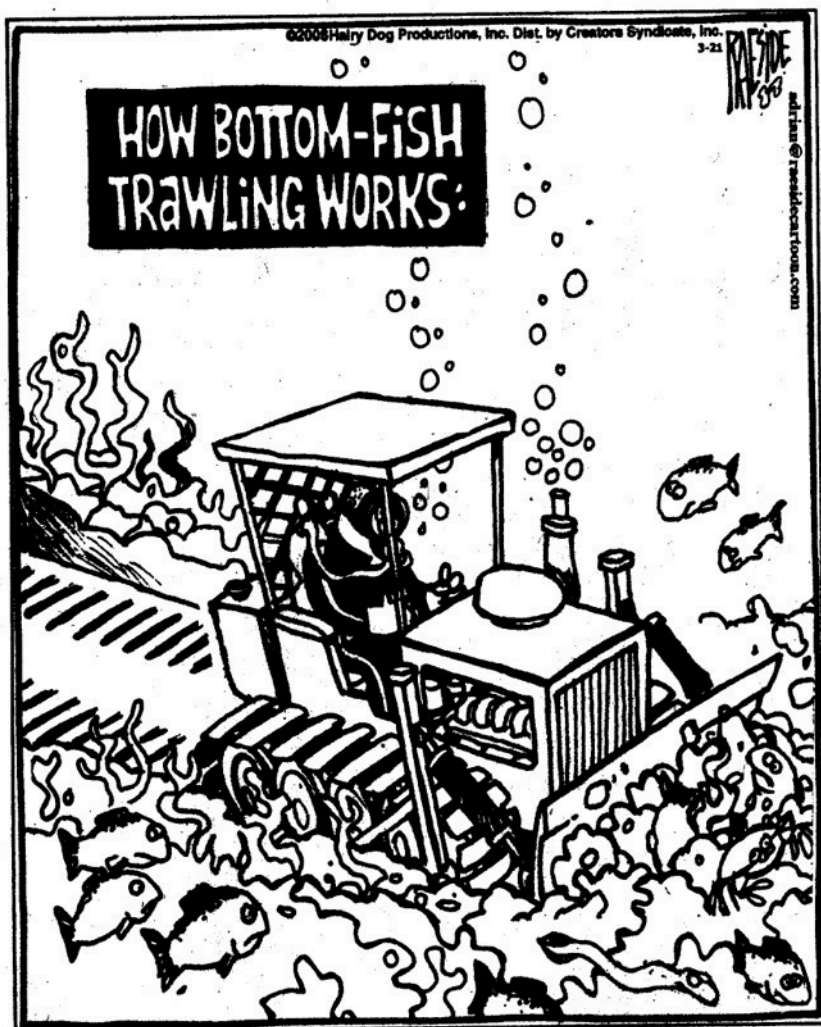
- Writing of Resetting the Table – presentation and summary of priorities
- Launch on Parliament Hill - communications and dissemination
- Adopted by Food Secure Canada as political platform



Some Successes

- **Created collaborative space (technology and kitchen table talks)** for farmers, fishers and eaters, for rural and urban folk, for indigenous and non
- **Claimed a legitimate space for civil society** in the development of a national food policy (both government and industry are now inviting us to the table)
- **Wove diverse, multi-sectoral perspectives** into a pan-Canadian fabric with a federal voice

The Other Coast



Some Challenges

- Current governance and decision making structures that exclude civil society
- Funding and capacity
- Political climate that sees advocacy as a threat

UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food

December 2011 - April 2012

- Food Secure Canada along with 40 others collaborated created a Civil society submission
- Supported 9 civil society meetings with the Rapporteur
- Generated extensive media interest in the visit to Canada



March 2013 – National Dialogue

- Over 1200 people attended 60 events to participate in a webinar with Special Rapporteur the day his report was presented to the UN

Brief History of Raising the Bar

2011

- Priority of Resetting the Table: A National Children and Food Strategy

2012

- First meeting of Children and Food Network
- First ED hired
- Presentation to Federal Finance Committee proposing Universal SFP

2013

- Published recommendation for Universal SFP in Alternative Federal Budget (CCPA)
- First meeting to develop Raising the Bar on Student Food Programs – new and existing members

